

HOUSE BILL 3025

By Johnson P

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,
Chapter 6, relative to gifts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-6-305(b), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(13)

(A) Entertainment, food, refreshments, meals, or beverages, that are provided in connection with an in-state event to which invitations are extended to the entire membership of one (1) or more standing committees; however, a copy of the invitation shall be delivered to the ethics commission and to each member of the standing committee or committees at least seven (7) days in advance of the event by the employer or lobbyist paying for the event; provided further, that, within thirty (30) days following the event, the employer or lobbyist shall electronically report to the commission the total aggregate cost paid for the event, as well as the per person contractual cost for the event or the per person cost for the event based on the number of persons invited, which shall not exceed, per person per day, excluding sales tax and gratuity, the greater of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or the amount published by the ethics commission pursuant to subdivision (b)(10)(B) reflecting the percentage of change in the average consumer price index (all items-city average) of fifty dollars (\$50.00). The value of any such gift may not be reduced below the monetary limitation by dividing the cost of the gift among two (2) or more lobbyists or employers of lobbyists. All such information delivered or reported to the commission shall be promptly

posted on the commission's Internet site. The filing of a consolidated report may be authorized by rule, promulgated pursuant to § 4-55-103(1), if the costs of the event are shared by two (2) or more employers or lobbyists; however, any such report shall specify the allocation of the costs among the employers or lobbyists; provided further, however, that the employers or lobbyists shall remain individually accountable for the timeliness and accuracy of the consolidated filing.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision (b)(13), "standing committee" means any standing committee of the general assembly created by the rules of proceedings of the house of representatives or the senate that is composed of nine (9) or more members of one (1) house of the general assembly. "Standing committee" does not include a subcommittee, select, or special committee.

(C) Subdivision (b)(13)(A) shall only apply to the membership of the invited standing committee or committees, such members' spouses, and legislative staff assigned to the invited standing committee or committees.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.